

U.S. Application Serial No.: 09/737,655

Reply to Office Action of: January 30, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (cancelled). A data storing device comprising a data memory and compression coding and/or decoding means, for the storing of picture data in a compressed or decompressed data format, wherein said compression coding and decoding means include means for labeling and retrieving selected data segments.

Claim 2 (cancelled). A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said compression coding means comprises programmed digital computer means.

Claim 3 (cancelled). A device as claimed in claim 1, and further including picture generating means for generating digital picture data and means for supplying said digital picture to said compression coding and/or decoding means.

Claim 4 (cancelled). A device as claimed in claim 1, and further comprising a traffic monitoring installation with a digital camera, said digital camera generating camera data representing the picture of a traffic scene; and means for

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supplying said camera data as said picture data to said compression coding and/or decoding means.

Claim 5 (cancelled). A method of storing picture data in a compressed or decompressed data format in a data storing memory, comprising the steps of:

dividing said picture data into data segments, at least one of said data segments having a location represented by location information,

storing said location information of said at least one data segment.

Claim 6 (amended). A method as claimed in claim 10 [5], and further comprising the step[s] of:

reading said stored location information [of one] of said at least one data segment[, and

compressing or decompressing, respectively, selectively said at least one data segment].

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Claim 7 (amended). A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said plurality of data segments are compressed to associated different degrees of compression.

Claim 8 (cancelled). A method as claimed in claim 7, and further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of said at least one data segment using said location information, and

decompressing said selected data segment in accordance with its associated degree of compression.

Claim 9 (cancelled). A method of storing picture data representing a traffic scene by means of a digital camera of a traffic monitoring installation, whereby picture data representing the picture of said traffic scene are generated;

dividing said picture data into data segments, at least one of said data segments

having a location represented by location information;

storing said location information of said at least one data segment;

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compressing said data segments;

selecting said at least one data segment using said location information, and
decompressing said selected data segment independently of other ones of said data
segments.

Claim 10 (new). A method of storing picture data in a compressed or
decompressed format in a data storing memory, said method comprising the steps
of:

generating picture data;

dividing said picture data into a plurality of data segments in such a manner that
location of at least one of said data segments is represented by location
information;

storing said location information of said at least one data segment in the data
storing memory;

compressing said plurality of data segments; and

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selecting said at least one data segment using said location information, and decompressing only said selected data segment independently of the remaining data segments in accordance with a respective degree of its compression.

Claim 11 (new). The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein in said step of compressing said plurality of data segments are selectively compressed to a different degree of compression.

Claim 12 (new). The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said plurality of data segments are being stored in the data storing memory in such a manner that some of said segments are not being compressed, some of said segments are being slightly compressed, and some of said segments are being heavily compressed.

Claim 13 (new). A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein in said plurality of data segments said data segments are separated from each other representing said data segments and labels identifying said data segments.

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Claim 14 (new). A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein in said step of compressing said plurality of data segments are being compressed to a uniform degree of compression.

Claim 15 (new). A method of storing picture data representing a traffic scene in a compressed or decompressed format in a data storing memory, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a picture of a traffic scene by means of a digital camera of a traffic monitoring arrangement, so as to generate picture data representing said picture of the traffic scene;

dividing said picture data into a plurality of data segments in such a manner that location of at least one of said data segments is represented by location information;

storing said location information of said at least one data segment in the data storing memory;

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compressing said plurality of data segments; and

selecting said at least one data segment using said location information, and

decompressing only said selected data segment independently of the remaining data segments.

Claim 16 (new). A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein in said step of compressing said plurality of data segments are selectively compressed to a different degree of compression.

Claim 17 (new). A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said plurality of data segments are being stored in the data storing memory in such a manner that some of said segments are not being compressed, some of said segments are being slightly compressed, and some of said segments are being heavily compressed.

Claim 18 (new). A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein in said plurality of data segments said data segments are separated from each other representing said data segments and labels identifying said data segments.

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Claim 19 (new). A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein in said step of compressing said plurality of data segments are being compressed to a uniform degree of compression.